

## Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising a computer on which software modules are executed, the system comprising:

a source-level partial hyperlinker comprising a source identifier and a source anchor generator connected to said source identifier;

a source-level dynamic hyperlinker;

a static hyperlinker for automatically generating static hyperlinks;

a static hyperlinker with intermediate links; and

an incremental hyperlinker,

wherein the source identifier and the source anchor generator support the application of the incremental hyperlinker and the source-level dynamic hyperlinker on document objects at different hyperlinking stages.

2. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said source-level partial hyperlinker further comprises:

an initial semi-link generator connected to said source anchor generator; and

a link manager connected to said initial semi-link generator.

3. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said source-level dynamic hyperlinker comprises:

an initial semi-link generator connected to said source anchor generator;

a link manager connected to said initial semi-link generator;

a link browser connected to said source identifier and said link manager for interpreting hyperlinks that have been fully or partially generated;

a document browser connected to said link browser.

4. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said static hyperlinker comprises:

an intermediate destination identifier connected to said source anchor generator;

a destination identifier connected to said intermediate destination identifier;  
a final link generator connected to said destination identifier; and  
a link manager connected to said final link generator.

5. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said static hyperlinker with intermediate links comprises:

an intermediate destination identifier connected to said source anchor generator;  
an intermediate anchor generator connected to said intermediate destination identifier;

an intermediate link generator connected to said intermediate anchor generator.  
a destination identifier connected to said intermediate destination identifier;  
a final link generator connected to said destination identifier; and  
a link manager connected to said final link generator.

6. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 1 wherein said incremental hyperlinker comprises:

an intermediate destination identifier connected to said source anchor generator;  
an intermediate anchor generator connected to said intermediate destination identifier;

an intermediate link generator connected to said intermediate anchor generator.  
a destination identifier connected to said intermediate destination identifier;  
a link manager connected to said source anchor generator, said intermediate anchor generator; said intermediate link generator and said final link generator; and  
a link database connected to said link manager.

7. (Currently Amended): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising a computer on which software modules are executed, the system comprising:

a source identifier;  
a source anchor generator connected to said source identifier;  
an initial semi-link generator connected to said source anchor generator; and  
a link manager connected to said initial semi-link generator;

wherein the source identifier, the source anchor generator, and the initial semi-link generator support incremental hyperlinking and dynamic hyperlinking.

8. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 7, further comprising:

- a link browser connected to said source identifier and said link manager for interpreting hyperlinks that have been fully or partially generated; and
- a document browser connected to said link browser.

9. (Currently Amended): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising a computer on which software modules are executed, the system comprising:

- a source identifier;
- a source anchor generator connected to said source identifier;
- an intermediate destination identifier connected to said source anchor generator;
- a destination identifier connected to said intermediate destination identifier;
- a final link generator connected to said destination identifier; and
- a link manager connected to said final link generator;

wherein the source identifier and the source anchor generator support incremental hyperlinking and dynamic hyperlinking at different hyperlinking stages for extracting information from accessible documents at each of the different hyperlinking stages.

10. (Original): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 9 further comprising:

- an intermediate anchor/link generator connected between said intermediate destination identifier and said destination identifier wherein said intermediate anchor/link generator comprises:

- an intermediate anchor generator connected to said intermediate destination identifier; and

- an intermediate link generator connected between said intermediate anchor generator and said destination identifier.

11. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 10 further comprising:

wherein said link manager is connected to said source anchor generator, said intermediate anchor generator and said intermediate link generator.

12. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 11 further comprising:

a link database connected to said link manager.

13. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 11 further comprising:

an initial semi-link generator connected to said source anchor generator and said link manager;

an intermediate semi-link generator connected to said intermediate anchor generator and said link manager;

a final semi-link generator connected to said destination identifier and said link manager.

14. (Previously Presented): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 13 further comprising:

a link browser connected between said source identifier and said link manager for interpreting hyperlinks that have been fully or partially generated.

15. (Original): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 14 further comprising:

a document browser connected to said link browser.

16. (Original): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 14 further comprising:

a link interpreter connected to said link browser.

17. (Original): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system as claimed in claim 16 further comprising:

a document browser connected to said link browser.

18. (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method for automatic hyperlinking comprising the steps of:

identifying a source;

generating a source anchor;

generating an initial semi-link;

utilizing link management;

utilizing a document browser, said document browser for viewing and following links from one document to another; and

wherein the source and the source anchor support incremental hyperlinking and dynamic hyperlinking at different hyperlinking stages for extracting information from accessible documents at each of the different hyperlinking stages.

19. (Previously Presented): A method for automatic hyperlinking as claimed in claim 18 further comprising the steps of:

utilizing a link browser for interpreting hyperlinks that have been fully or partially generated.

20. (Currently Amended): A computer-implemented method for automatic hyperlinking comprising the steps of:

identifying a source;

generating a source anchor;

identifying an intermediate destination based on user-defined criteria;

identifying a destination based on user-defined criteria;

generating a final link; and

utilizing link management;

wherein the source and the source anchor support incremental hyperlinking and dynamic hyperlinking.

21. (Original): A method for automatic hyperlinking as claimed in claim 20 further comprising the steps of:

generating an intermediate anchor/link; wherein generating said intermediate anchor/link comprises the steps of:

generating an intermediate anchor; and

generating an intermediate link.

22. (Original): A method for automatic hyperlinking as claimed in claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

utilizing a link database.

23. (Original): A method for automatic hyperlinking as claimed in claim 21 further comprising the steps of:

generating an initial semi-link;

generating an intermediate semi-link; and

generating a final semi-link.

24. (Previously Presented): A method for automatic hyperlinking as claimed in claim 23 further comprising the steps of:

utilizing a link browser for interpreting hyperlinks that have been fully or partially generated.

25. (Original): A method for automatic hyperlinking as claimed in claim 23 further comprising the steps of:

utilizing a link interpreter; and

utilizing a document browser.

26. (Currently Amended): A generalized automatic hyperlinking system comprising a computer on which software modules are executed, the system comprising:

~~means for~~ a source identification module;

~~means for a~~ source anchor generation module connected to said ~~means for~~ source identification module;

~~means for an~~ initial semi-link generation module connected to said ~~means for~~ source anchor generation module;

~~means for an~~ intermediate destination identification module connected to said ~~means for~~ source anchor generation module;

~~means for an~~ intermediate anchor generation module connected to said ~~means for~~ intermediate destination identification module;

~~means for an~~ intermediate link generation module connected to said ~~means for~~ intermediate anchor generation module;

~~means for an~~ intermediate semi-link generation module connected to said ~~means for~~ intermediate anchor generation module;

~~means for a~~ destination identification connected to said ~~means for~~ intermediate link generation module;

~~means for a~~ final semi-link generation module connected to said ~~means for~~ destination identification module;

~~means for a~~ final link generation module connected to said ~~means for~~ destination identification module;

~~means for a~~ link management module connected to said ~~means for~~ initial semi-link generation module, said ~~means for~~ source anchor generation module, said ~~means for~~ intermediate semi-link generation module, said ~~means for~~ intermediate link generation module, said ~~means for~~ final semi-link generation module and said ~~means for~~ final link generation module;

~~means for providing~~ a link database connected to said ~~means for~~ link management module;

~~means for providing~~ a link browser connected to said ~~means for~~ link management module and said ~~means for~~ source identification module;

~~means for a~~ link interpretation module connected to said ~~means for providing~~ a link browser, said link browser invoking the ~~means for~~ link interpretation module for determining actions to be taken when a link is selected; and

~~means for~~ a document browsing module connected to said ~~means for providing a~~  
link browser;

wherein the ~~means for~~ source identification module and the ~~means for~~ source  
anchor generation module support incremental hyperlinking and dynamic hyperlinking.